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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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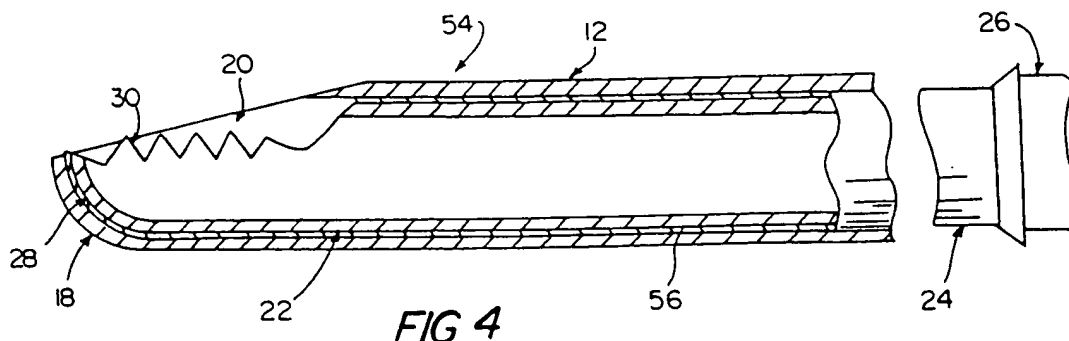
(71) Applicant : LINVATEC CORPORATION  
11311 Concept Boulevard  
Largo, Florida 34643 (US)

(72) Inventor : Winkler, Rance A.  
11520 Shipwatch Drive, Apt. 1383  
Largo, Florida 34644 (US)

(74) Representative : Perry, Robert Edward  
GILL JENNINGS & EVERY, Broadgate House,  
7 Eldon Street  
London EC2M 7LH (GB)

(54) Surgical cutting instrument.

(57) A surgical cutting instrument (10) formed of relatively movable, cooperating, inner and outer elongate tubular members wherein one of the inner (22) and outer (12) tubular members is made of a gall-resistant material providing an elongate bearing surface along substantially the entire length of the surgical cutting instrument to allow the inner and outer tubular members to be mounted with virtually no gap therebetween for precision cutting without wear or abrasion, metal flaking, galling and seizure and while permitting the other of the inner and outer tubular members to be made from 300 Series stainless steel. When the outer member is made from gall-resistant material, the inner member made from 300 Series stainless steel can be provided with an elongate bearing surface therealong formed by surface hardening the inner member or coating the inner member with thin, dense chromium. The outer tubular member can be made of 300 Series stainless steel with the inner tubular member including a distal tip made from gall-resistant material, a body made from 300 Series stainless steel joined to the distal tip and a bearing surface extending along the body. A biocompatible lubricant can be disposed between the inner and outer members to increase wear and galling resistance of the surgical cutting instrument, and a sleeve bearing on the inner tubular member allows the surgical cutting instrument to withstand increased radial or side loads.



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FIG 1

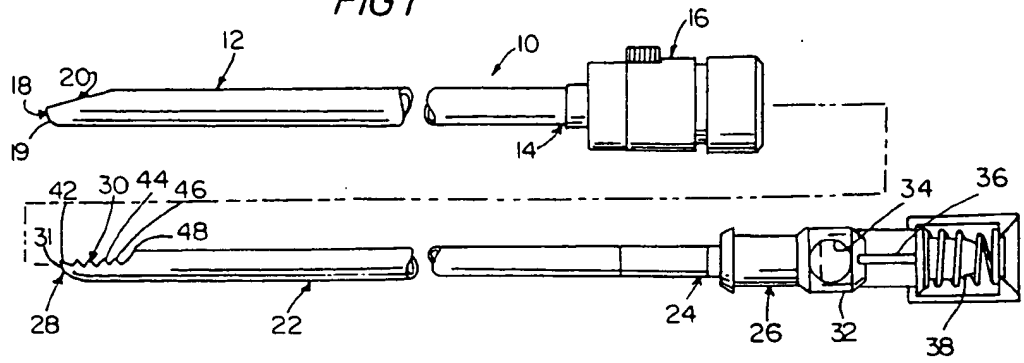


FIG 2

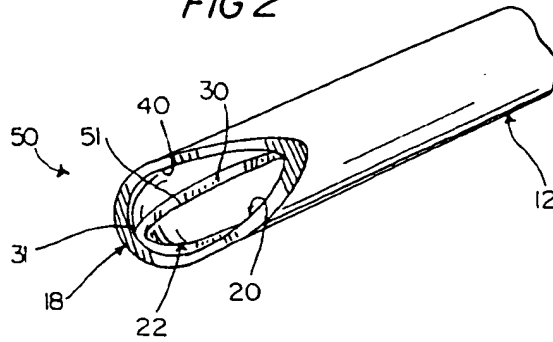
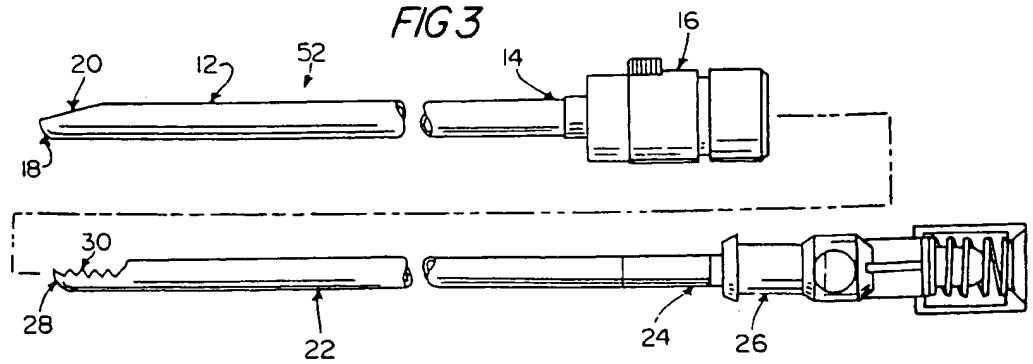
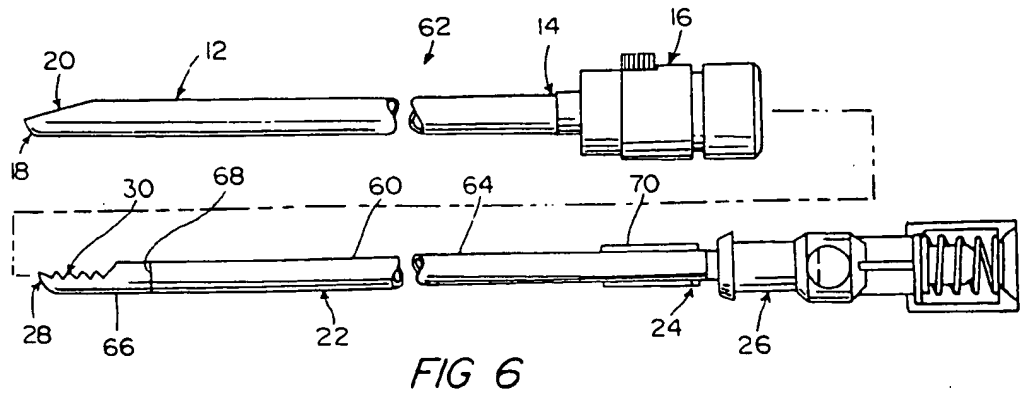
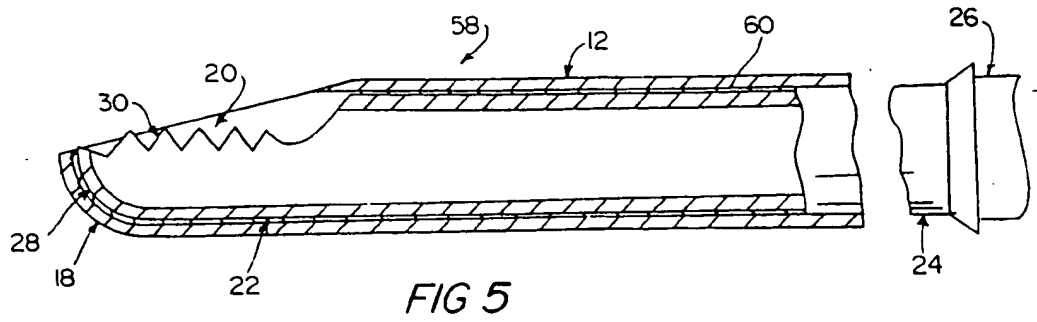
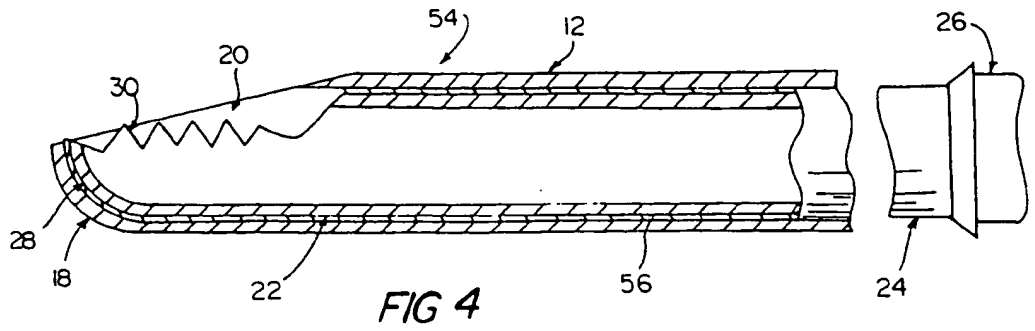


FIG 3





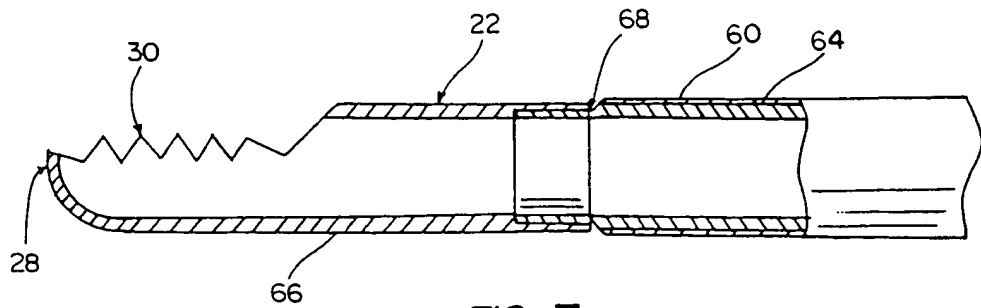


FIG 7

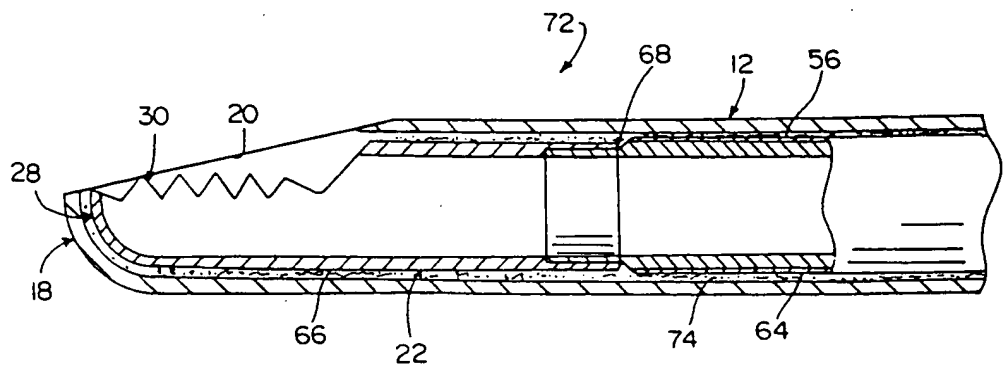


FIG 8